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**SENATE BILL 6493**

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**State of Washington**

**55th Legislature**

**1998 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Wood, Wojahn, Fairley, Thibaudeau, Benton, Strannigan, Franklin, Deccio, Bauer, Winsley and Kohl

Read first time 01/20/98. Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to in-home care providers and workers; adding a new  
2 sections to chapter 74.39A RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the recent trend  
5 in long-term care is to provide a more complex level of direct in-home  
6 care and support to a greater number of high acuity clients. The  
7 legislature further finds that the thousands of in-home care assistants  
8 who provide these needed long-term care services do so with wages that  
9 often places them at or below the level of poverty and often without  
10 paid sick leave, vacation, holiday leave, or retirement.

11 It is the intent of the legislature to increase wages and benefit  
12 levels for home care assistants. Furthermore, it is the intent of the  
13 legislature to improve the safety, health, and well-being of persons  
14 receiving in-home care by recognizing the cost and oversight necessary  
15 for higher level acuity clients.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 74.39A RCW  
17 to read as follows:

1       The wages for all in-home care assistants of home care agencies  
2 providing in-home care for state supported clients in chore services,  
3 medicaid personal care services, respite services, or community options  
4 programs entry system services shall be increased to eight dollars and  
5 fifty cents an hour with appropriate annual cost of living adjustments  
6 as determined by the office of financial management, by rule.

7       NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 74.39A RCW  
8 to read as follows:

9       The department shall develop and implement, by rule, a  
10 reimbursement scale for agencies providing in-home services that  
11 recognizes the acuity level of the in-home care clients and the  
12 requisite supervision and training necessary to insure the quality of  
13 care and safety of the client.

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